

Guild *at a* Glance

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4733 West Saanich Road, Victoria

Sept 1, 2008

www.mypottery.com

Volume 9, Issue 1

Greetings Potters!

Saturday June 14th was a gorgeous sunny day for the annual SVIPG sale. It was a little chilly in the morning but warmed up comfortably later on. By the afternoon it had warmed enough that Priska could remove her toque and scarf.

What a well organized and beautiful setup! Although the turnout was a little disappointing, that may have been due to the fact that Saturday was the first sunny weekend in many weeks, and people may have spent the time in the garden or at the beach.



Thank you! thank you! thank you! to all who contributed to the smooth running of the sale. Advertising, signs, flowers, layout, refreshments, set up, clean up, demonstration, balloons, tables, tents, wrapping supplies, cookies, members' table, profile book.... the list goes on. This event could not have taken place without the wonderful cooperation of all members.

To any who have expenses and need reimbursement, please email Fern or Heidi with the amount and save the receipt.

Once again, a big thank you to all. May the show be even bigger and better next year!

Sincerely,
Fern and Heidi
(your rookie co-conveners)

Upcoming Guild Programs

Sept.—Alice M. and Kyoko K.

Don't Forget The Raffle!

Next Guild Meeting is
Monday, Oct 6, 2008
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall



Photos by Rachel Coward and Tony M

Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts presents



MICHAEL SHERRILL EXTRUDING WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 18-19, 2008 9am - 4pm

An overgrown play dough factory (the extruder) can change the way you think about clay! Michael will primarily work around the extruding and manipulating of clay forms - blending science and art. He creates work that celebrates and responds to the natural world outside his studio and to the physical behavior of his tools and materials.

Michael Sherrill has designed a line of tools for potters and sculptors under the name, "Mudtools". He has taught at both Penland and Arrowmont and his work is in numerous collections, including the Mint Museum of Craft and Design, the American Art Museum, the White House Collection and the Renwick Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

Cost: \$155. + GST

Friends of MISSA: \$145. +GST

Includes lunches.

Metchosin Int'l. School of Art at
Lester B. Pearson College
650 Pearson College Drive,
Victoria, BC V9C 4H7
(250) 391-2420 missa@pearsoncollege.ca
www.missa.ca



Drop-In Pottery

The Juan de Fuca Pottery Studio is Open for Drop In! Come check it out, in Colwood at 1767 Island Hwy at Ocean Blvd.

Buy a punch pass at the front desk and drop into the studio during posted studio times. A pottery attendant will be on duty to help you with any questions. The drop in studio time is open to anyone who has taken a JdF Pottery class or who has experience with pottery. For anyone who hasn't taken a JdF class, a short studio orientation will need to be done [\$10]. Only clay sold by the studio is to be used in the studio. Clay is \$20 for a 1/2 box.

September 24 – December 21:

Wednesdays 6-9pm, Thursdays 10am-1pm, Sundays 12pm-3pm (except Dec 7th)

Punch passes available at front reception: 10hrs. -\$35 or 20hrs - \$55

Pottery Orientations (by appointment) \$10 are available during drop in studio hours. The orientation will cover, a tour of the facility, safety and rules of the studio.

Contact Rob Wilson 474-8617 to book appointments www.JdFRecreation.com

Upcoming events, October—Souper Bowls of Hope

Souper Bowls of Hope will be held on Wednesday, October 22, from 11 AM to 1:30 PM at the Fairmont Empress Hotel, Palm Court entrance. Help the youth of our Region through the Youth Empowerment Society and the many programs it offers to give young people a positive alternative to a negative lifestyle. If you can donate your Clay Creations, please bring to the next Guild meeting or contact Helen Hughes at 250-361-0217 or hhughes@victoria.ca for pickup. A tax receipt will be issued for the value you place on your items.

A Chuckle

A woman walked into her kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies", he responded.

"Killing any?" she asked.

"Yep, 3 males and 2 females", he replied.

Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell?"

He responded, "Three were on a beer can and two were on the phone!"

Helen Hughes, 250-361-0217 hhughes@victoria.ca



YOUR 2007-2008 EXECUTIVE

President	?	
Vice-Pres	Roger Champagne	388-9642
Secretary	Rachel Coward	721-2976
Treasurer	Linda Vigliotti	
Archivist	?	
Library	?	

Judy Kranjc	642-5368
Alice McLean	642-3522
Kyoko Kusano	592-4638
Elaine White	382-0317

Membership	Betty Burroughs	382-0974
-------------------	-----------------	----------

Newsletter Committee	Betty Burroughs	382-0974
	Roger Champagne	388-9642
	Jane McAllister	383-6240
	Tony Mochizuki	474-1532
	Jocelyn Steedman	920-0196
	Caryl Wilford	642-7169

Program Coordinators: ?

Raffle	Ester Galac	658-4523
	Tobias Tomlinson	383-3893

Coffee ?

Directors: Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton

ART3 takes place at Studio 16 1/2 art emporium in FanTan Alley, featuring eclectic sculptural works in a variety of original materials. The gallery is calling it a "sculptural potluck on overdrive". Artists taking part include Faro Sullivan, Philip Robinson and Gary Pearson. The exhibition runs from Aug. 21 to Sept. 15. Gallery hours are Tue. to Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info. 250-595-6709. Website www.fantanstudios.com



WWW.FANTANSTUDIOS.COM

Kelowna Clay Festival --- August 8-12, 2008

Penny Jones, Linda Vigliotti, Nancy Wall and I attended this event, held every 3 years and presented by Okanagan Potters Association, and thoroughly enjoyed the presenters: **Tony Clennell** from Ontario, **Jim Robison** from England, **Paul A. Wandless** from the US, **Lorel Sternig** and **James Hibbert**. James, formerly from Victoria, now lives in Naramata. It was nice to see **Donna**, manager of **Vancouver Island Pottery Supply**, there as well. **Greenbarn** had a display of tools and books and **Yosuke Koizumi**, representative from Shimpo Company demonstrated the new Whisper wheel and special stool, and showed Japanese throwing techniques and his signature tiny frogs with which he adorns his pots. He amazed everyone with his speed of throwing! Nancy notes: Yosuke was instrumental in the development of the Whisper Series potters' wheels.

This was a well-organized festival in a lovely new-ish art centre. Across the street is Art Ark Gallery which featured work by the presenters and the members of OKPA and hosted a social there on the Friday evening for all attendees. Other happenings worth mentioning were: (1) "Blind Cylinder Throw" where each competitor had a paper bag over his head and, with a pre-weighed ball of clay, was given 5 minutes to throw a cylinder. The prize for the tallest went to James Hibbert.

(2) "Longest Handle Pull" saw each potter given one pound of clay to make the longest handle they could in 5 minutes. (The record to beat is 35 inches pulled by Angela Carlson at the Festival in 2005). Don't know who won this year but the length was 28 inches.

(3) BC in a Box 2008: Fingerplay, the travelling exhibit by members of BC Potters Guild, was on display in the atrium of the art centre.

(4) There was a mug exchange where attendees were encouraged to donate a mug for the "Mug Wall" which would be sold as a fundraiser.

(5) At the close of the classes, instructors' unfired demo work was put on tables in the hall with bid sheets attached. The resulting silent auction drew some pretty serious bidding and prices went up and up! This proved to be a surprisingly good fundraiser and a lot of good-natured rivalry amongst the contenders!

(5) Saturday evening we were treated to a Barbecue Social and Pottery Exchange. Those that brought a piece of their work got to exchange with someone else's in a draw.

(6) Sunday was "Free Family Fun Day" where the public could try their hand at throwing or handbuilding. (It was fun to watch Yosuke helping youngsters on the wheel. They all got to keep what they made.) Grownups and youngsters alike could also purchase small pre-made pots, glaze them with direction from an expert, and then watch them being fired in raku kilns.....always exciting to the public!



Tony Clennell presented "Great Pots -- The Fine Points" and explained he isn't into making "kitchen ware" now, just pots for the "living room". He believes that potters who concentrate on functional pieces will have a harder time selling when stores now sell more inexpensive ware from China. However, he demonstrated teapots, jugs and casseroles, but at the same time showed tips on how to throw very large forms with ease. He has recently been attending the University of Utah for his MFA and for part of the course, had his way paid to attend a ceramics university in China for 4 months. He sent a blog to Clayart, an online website, with photos of his time and experiences there which was both enlightening and amusing.

At this festival, he liberally shared his throwing techniques, surface embellishments and many marketing ideas all with wit and humour! He is a great entertainer and story-teller!

----- Betty Burroughs

Penny stayed on for **Jim Robison's** hands-on workshop Monday and Tuesday. Here's her re-

port: "A master at extending and stretching clay, particularly for handbuilding. Collages were made varying the surface treatment. Use of slips and texture were thoroughly explored. Making dies from a credit card and using an ordi-



nary caulking tube and gun were very usable ideas. A simple and inexpensive way to add feet and trim to your clay pieces. Jim's quote of the day: "To enrich your life, try taking a different route." — Penny Jones

Paul Wandless lives near Philadelphia. Throughout Friday/Saturday he covered a lot of material on Image Transfer techniques, utilizing mainly underglazes and slips. Participants watched and scribbled notes excitedly as Paul demonstrated. First was monoprinting: painting with underglazes onto plaster and creating a ½" clay dam which is filled with casting slip, which absorbs the underglaze image, then pulling it once leatherhard to reveal a mono-print. This demo was followed by



many others (most of which I missed while off watching other instructors) including stencilling, linocuts, and making decals. Paul often uses the figure/torso as a point of departure to express ideas using images and text in creating sculptural pieces. While working he told stories that explained some of his abstract work, which reflects day to day musings, world concerns and beliefs. On the last day he was working on a handbuilt torso adding line drawings, and thin clay decals made from painting multiple layers of casting slip over prints on plaster, which he'd made up earlier. You can view his work and biography at www.studio3artcompany.com and find detailed instructions in his book 'Image Transfer For Clay', which I believe is in our guild library. ---

- Nancy Wall



James Hibbert, formerly of Victoria, now has a studio and gallery on the wine route between Naramata and Penticton. He came to the Clay Festival recovering from a near death experience and serious surgery. However, he gave a wonderful throwing demonstration interspersed with many insights into making a living as a potter and becoming the best potter you can possibly be.

His advice to the aspiring potter? Get comfortable living with a little less! He only thinks of money when he starts to run out of it. Otherwise he doesn't give a darn. Show confidence in yourself to make the pots you want to make as opposed to what other people want you to make. See what happens and know that somehow bills will get paid. He says he's just a guy who works in a shed by himself all day and his opinions are not necessarily relevant to anyone else but he has developed a definite sense of aesthetics. How to become a better potter? Do something you feel good about and share it with the world. No keeping secrets. Do the right thing, not just what's in your own interest.

Find the balance between external and internal forces to allow you to make the pots you want.

Pay attention to every little detail along the way and you will get a stronger pot. Don't take shortcuts. Make the best pot you possibly can every time you sit down at the wheel. You will never reach

a higher level of skill unless you do. Making a pot and saying "It's good enough" is not good enough! Never make a pot without going as far and as good as you can.

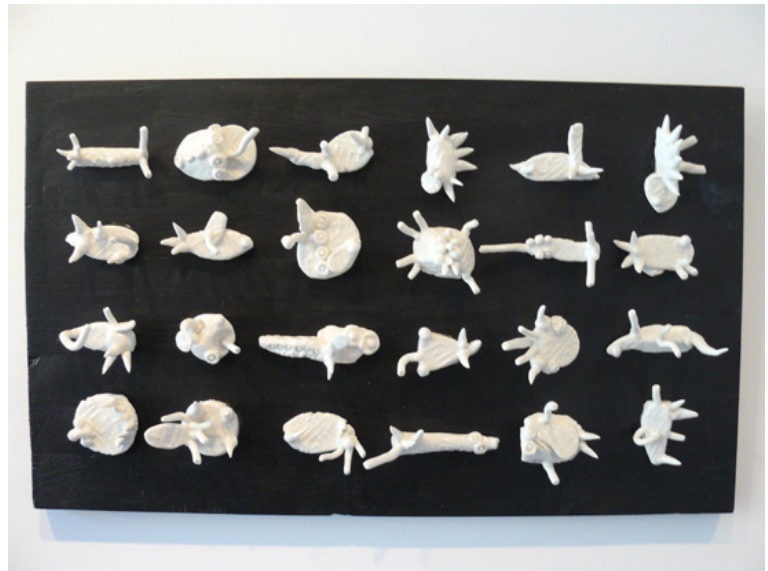
An inspiring guy and consummate potter. ---Linda Vigliotti.

Harumi Ota's exhibition is on now at the Collective Works Gallery at 1311 Gladstone Ave in Fernwood.

It is very different from anything he has done before, and from anything we have seen in Victoria to date. His butter dishes are something to see..... but so are his men..... It is all very inventive. It is on till September 11, and he will be there every day from 11 till 5. I missed the opening last Friday, but apparently it was lots of fun, and he sold one piece.

Next Saturday, 30th at 1:30 there is a Japanese tea ceremony, and on Sunday, 31st there is an Ikebana workshop at 1:30 with Yukiyasu Kato of Zen Floral Studio - pre-registration is required for this at 250 477 4531. On Saturday, September 6 from 1:00 till 3:00, Harumi is throwing at a free drop-in demonstration. His throwing is amazing. We had him give a workshop on throwing at Cedar Hill a few years ago. His glazing techniques are also very different from ours. He fires 4 or 5 times after the addition of each colour.

Thanks, Jocelyn



Plaster and Plastic Storage Bins: Essentials for the Clay Studio

by Karen Dormaar and Carol Gleason

Today we bring you a couple of tips from Ceramic Arts Daily readers about two essential items for any clay studio: plaster and plastic storage bins. Plaster is used in the ceramic process for many things: for molds, as throwing bats and for reclaiming clay, to name a few. The two tips below address how plaster poured into plastic storage bins can make the reclaiming process easier and neater, and help you preserve pieces of pots or sculptures that didn't work out in one project for just the right future project. Thanks to Karen and Carol for submitting these tips! - Jennifer Harnetty, editor.



Under-the-Bed or Around the Studio

Whenever I recycle clay slop on a plaster bat, it seems that I always have more clay than what the bat can hold. So I bought a plastic tub (the kind that fits under the bed) and poured plaster directly into the bottom half of the tub. Once the plaster has dried out, I can pour the clay slop on top anywhere from 1 to 3 inches thick on the bat without it going anywhere. An added bonus is that the tub comes with handles (some even have wheels), which makes it easier to move it around. Plus, the tub protects the slab from getting chipped. - Karen Dormaar, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

Lana Wilson's Keeper Boxes

I attended a class given by Lana Wilson and have been using her method for using plastic pails for keeping your clay projects in workable condition until completion ever since. It has saved me many times including returning leather to workable when necessary. Take any good sealing plastic container like Rubbermaid and put plaster in the bottom approximately one inch in depth. Slowly stir in water till you get a sour cream consistency and the plaster and water are thoroughly mixed. At this point it would be a good idea to hit the sides or lift slightly and drop to release the bubbles. Put the top back on and let it set up. This container will always have some moisture in it and the moisture can be increased by putting in a cup or two of water onto the hardened plaster. Always keep the top on to retain the moisture. Pieces can be made and left in the box until needed then applied to your current work. Lana called it a "keeper box" and she couldn't have named it better. I now have a few of them in different sizes. I have made pieces that I find interesting, but are not usable with my current project. So I end up putting them in my keeper box and using them months later. - Carol Gleason, Howell, New Jersey.

Galvanized cans -- NOT to be used for raku or pit-firing

(On Clayart) There was a thread on Raku firing and what is called "Raku hangover" and much speculation about whether it was caused by fumes, by smoke, by fatigue, dehydration, or over-excitement. It is to be noted that when Dr. Luigi Galvani discovered or invented galvanization --that which adorns metal garbage cans-- he did not foresee raku firings.

.....at least two potters I know who did pit firing and raku in galvanized garbage cans got HEAVY METAL POISONING for their pains.

PLEASE all of you who have had bad after effects, what you call "hangovers" after firing, have yourselves tested for metal poisoning. I gather it is a simple test done on hair. If I do not scare you enough--and I hope I do--Google heavy metal poisoning.

I really am troubled by the cheerfulness of the reports of Raku hangovers. Be advised that just as regular alcohol-induced hangovers pass, but one's liver stays fried, so these hangovers may be doing real damage. I mean REAL. And, if, God forbid, it turns out you do have heavy metal poisoning then please sound the alarm for others.

Lili Krakowski

Tozan Kiln

There are work parties every day this week at the kiln from 9:30 to 4:00 or so. We are moving right along, walls on left side complete. Steel is welded in. Smoke chamber Arch installed and chimney almost finished but still several days more work for several people and Harry has to go back to Calgary as of Friday.

So....we really need you...Please come out now.

Gari

Gari Whelon <whelon@telus.net>

Brent Wheel For Sale

Hi, I just moved to Chilliwack from Toronto, Ontario. I'm a single Mom, a potter, selling my pottery wheel to cover my moving expenses. I sure hope I can save up to replace it later. It's in perfect condition and a great wheel, less than ten years old, Brent Model C from Pottery Supply House in Oakville and I'm asking \$900 for it.

Rebecca McCarthy, muddymomma_coyote@yahoo.ca

It is on its way to Chilliwack from Toronto, arriving next Saturday. If anyone is going to Chilliwack in the near future, you might want to check it out.....BB

Hi Betty

Dianne Dennis from Shoreline School called me the other day. She is looking for some potters/sculptors to participate in an event Oct. 17-19, which is not exactly a craft fair, more of a demo class kind of thing, but one can bring things for sale as well. She has other crafts people lined up (weavers, knitters etc..) and it's not totally clear to me how it would work but I said I would send it on to the Guild.

Faro Annie Sullivan
Dirty Girl Clayworks
5321 Old West Saanich Rd.
Victoria BC V9E 2A9
250.413.6782

The X-Changes' building (in Vic West) is possibly for sale soon and the 15 people will be needing a place to be able to work. They need about 5600 sq.ft.

If anyone knows of space please let Helen know at: 250 361-0217.

Hello - I am running a public program at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary about the different kinds of soil. One of the main soils at the Sanctuary is clay formed by the glaciers grinding over Christmas Hill and Mount Douglas forming rock powder. This was washed down and created the clay of Victoria about 12,000 years ago.

As part of the "Soil Safari" program, children will be able to play with air dry clay and take creations home. It would be wonderful to have a potter on hand to explain hand building and some of the other techniques potters do and to help the children. Unfortunately my friend from North Vancouver, Heather Cairns, is unable to come over that weekend as planned.

I am hoping that one of your members would be able to volunteer. They could bring some of their own pottery for display. They would have to discuss the possibility of sales with our Executive Director, Terry Morrison who will return from vacation September 2.


"Soil Safari" is on Sunday September 21 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Please let me know asap. If I know who can come by this weekend, the information can go into our brochure to be created Sept.2. My e-mail at Swan Lake is programs@swanlake.bc.ca

Thank you,

Margaret Lidkea, Program Manager 250-479-0211 (Swan Lake)

SOOKE HARBOUR HOUSE
On Whiffen Spit Beach

in the gallery



CLAY CANVASES:
the art of painted ceramic

OPENING RECEPTION
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

1528 Whiffen Spit
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0
(250) 642-3421

ARTIST IN ATTENDANCE

IS A SEVRAIN

When you shop.....

**PLEASE MENTION
TO OUR ADVERTISERS
that you saw their ad
in the Guild newsletter.**

South Vancouver Island Potters Guild's newsletter

Guild at a Glance

is ONLINE!

go to

www.mypottery.com

and : www.gobc.ca/SVIPG

Vancouver Island Potters Supply

'Under New Management'

**Friendly Service
Expert Advice
Service and Savings
Quality products
Great Prices**

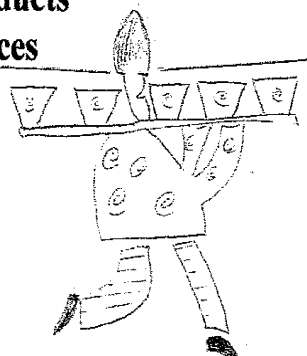
**#2 1009 Herring Gull Way
Parksville, B.C.
V9P 2N1**

Ph: 250.248.2314

Toll free 877.248.2307

Fax: 250.248.2318

Email: supplies@vanpotterywarehouse.com



Victoria Clay Art

933 Ellery St
Victoria BC
V9A 4R9
250 384-3831

Lloyd-El Ceramics has changed its name to
Victoria Clay Art

We still carry all your favourite supplies but also
have many new items that will help you
bring a new dimension to your art.

**Come in to see the new Shimpo VL Lite
Potters Wheel only \$770**

You will also find an excellent selection of in store
pottery and sculpting tools.

We also carry fully posable sculpting armatures.

Have a look at our Gare glazes now at 20% off

We also have a number of quality molds for sale.